8

Give My Regards to Black Jack

Shuho Sato

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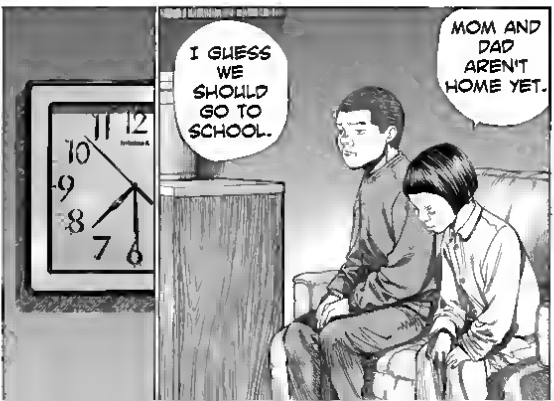
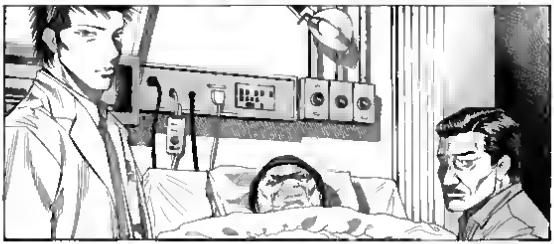
HEY, YOSHI-HIKO...
I'M PRETTY HUNGRY.

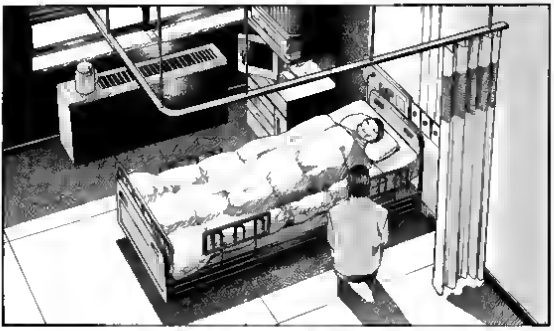

MOM AND DAD AREN'T HOME YET.
I GUESS WE SHOULD GO TO SCHOOL.

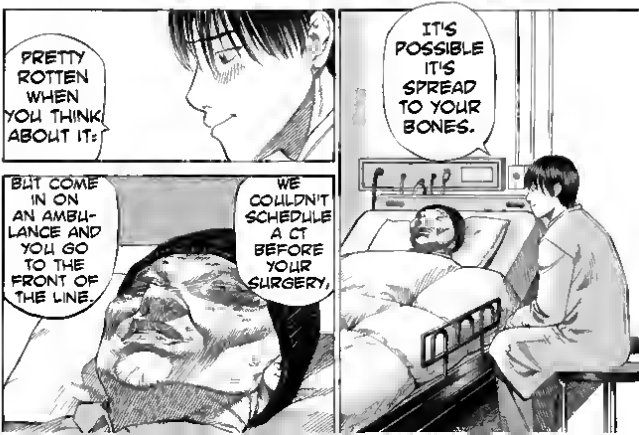
#69
Give Me an Answer

CLICK
TOK
TOK



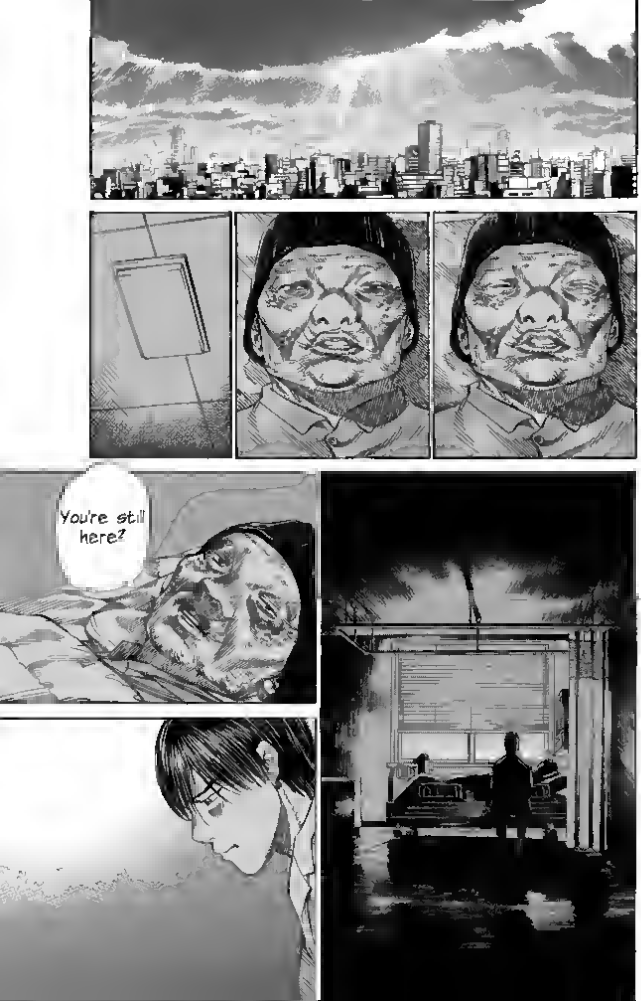
MR. TSUJIMOTO,
HER PAIN IS BEING CONTROLLED WITH MORPHINE.
WHY DON'T YOU HEAD BACK HOME FOR NOW?
WELL.
I MAY AS WELL CLOCK OUT MYSELF.




PRETTY ROTTEN WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
IT'S POSSIBLE IT'S SPREAD TO YOUR BONES.
BUT COME IN ON AN AMBULANCE AND YOU GO TO THE FRONT OF THE LINE.
WE COULDN'T SCHEDULE A CT BEFORE YOUR SURGERY.

ONCE THAT HAPPENS,
DO YOU PLAN ON GOING TO A HOSPITAL NEAR YOUR HOME?
YOU'LL BE DISCHARGED AFTER WE GET THOSE FILMS BACK.
What else do you suggest?
HOW ABOUT CONTINUING TREATMENT HERE AT EIROKU?

zzz
I guess
you want me here for yourself as well


You're still here?

I THINK I WANTED TO CURE YOU.
BUT THEN SOMEONE POINTED OUT,
ISN'T AN INCURABLE ILLNESS MORE OF A JUMPING-OFF POINT?
I'M A DOCTOR FOR MY OWN PURPOSES, SURE.
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, MRS. TSUJIMOTO.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING IF IT'S NOT FOR THE PATIENT, TOO.
TELL ME:
WHAT CAN I DO?

Why do you want to use that TS-1 drug on me?

ONCE THERE WERE TWO DOCTORS
WHO USED AN UNAP-PROVED DRUG--LIKE THIS ONE--ON A PATIENT.

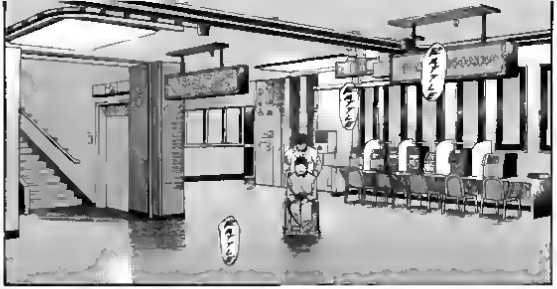
THE DRUG WAS EFFECTIVE TO SOME EXTENT,
BUT THE TREATMENT WAS HUGELY EXPENSIVE.
UNAP-PROVED DRUGS COST A LOT OF MONEY.

IN THE END, THE PATIENT DIED,
AND THE TWO DOCTORS STOPPED USING UNAPPROVED DRUGS.
THE OTHER
NO LONGER USES ANY CANCER DRUGS AT ALL ON HIS PATIENTS.
ONE OF THEM NOW PUTS HIS EFFORTS INTO CANCER DRUG RESEARCH.
SHOULDN'T WE USE UNAP-PROVED DRUGS, THEN?
SO I STARTED THINKING

IF THAT PATIENT COULD SEE THOSE TWO DOCTORS NOW,
WOULDN'T SHE BE TERRIBLY SAD?
I APOLOGIZE.
MAYBE I WAS JUST PUSHING MY OWN BIASES ON YOU AFTER ALL.
Those two doctors--
Is one of them Dr. Shoji?

Would it be possible for me to meet the other one?
Last night I had sudden back pain, and I collapsed on the floor.
Before long, I couldn't move at all
That's when it suddenly started to seem real.
I really am going to die.
All I could do was lie there feeling uneasy
But my body hurt so much.
I thought, "I could die like this."
The anxiety kept coming in waves.

What do I do?
Please tell me
I don't want to die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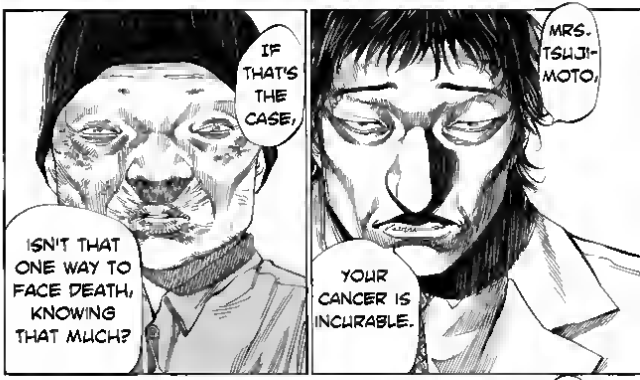
MEDICINE
ISN'T ABOUT PERFORMING SURGERY AND PRESCRIBING DRUGS.
NO, MEDICINE
IS THE STUDY OF CONSIDERING HOW TO FACE DEATH.
TENDING WOUNDS, HEALING ILLNESS,
FIGHTING OFF DEATH--THAT'S NOT MEDICINE.


IF THAT'S THE CASE,
ISN'T THAT ONE WAY TO FACE DEATH, KNOWING THAT MUCH?
MRS. TSUJI-MOTO,
YOUR CANCER IS INCURABLE.

Dr Saito,
is this really the doctor you were talking about?
PLIP
PLIP

WHO'D BE HAPPY HEARING SOMETHING LIKE THAT OUT OF THE BLUE?
THAT'S A LITTLE RIDICULOUS, DOCTOR.

AT SOME POINT, DOCTORS LOST INTEREST IN EVERYTHING BUT CURING SICKNESS.
AND DEATH BECAME A KIND OF DEFEAT.
LIVING AND DYING BOTH
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN NATURAL EVENTS FOR LIVING THINGS.

IS DEATH DEFEAT?

DON'T YOU MOCK ME.
Looking down your nose at people--
what do you know about it, anyway?

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.

TEN YEARS AGO,
I HAD A PATIENT WITH WHOM I REALLY FACED DEATH FOR THE FIRST TIME.

AND THAT'S WHY
I ALWAYS ASK MY PATIENTS:
IN FACT,
I STILL MIGHT NOT BE OVER HER DEATH.

WHAT IS DEATH?

PLEASE, TELL ME--
WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?

Kreeech

Krrrrhgaah

I wanted to be alive a little longer
I

#70
Explaining Life to the Reaper

THOSE WERE HER LAST WORDS.
"I WANTED TO BE ALIVE A LITTLE LONGER."

SHE WANTED TO LIVE.

AND UNTIL THE MOMENT HER TIME HERE CAME TO AN END,
ALL I COULD DO WAS BIND HER TO LIFE.
F

WHAT IS DEATH?
IS IT DEFEAT?
IS IT DESPAIR?
IS DEATH MISFORTUNE,
SOMETHING ONLY TO BE DENIED?

MRS. TSUJIMOTO...
I don't really know
I mean,
are you telling me to accept death?
Or cling to life?

Am I...
am I not allowed to want to live?

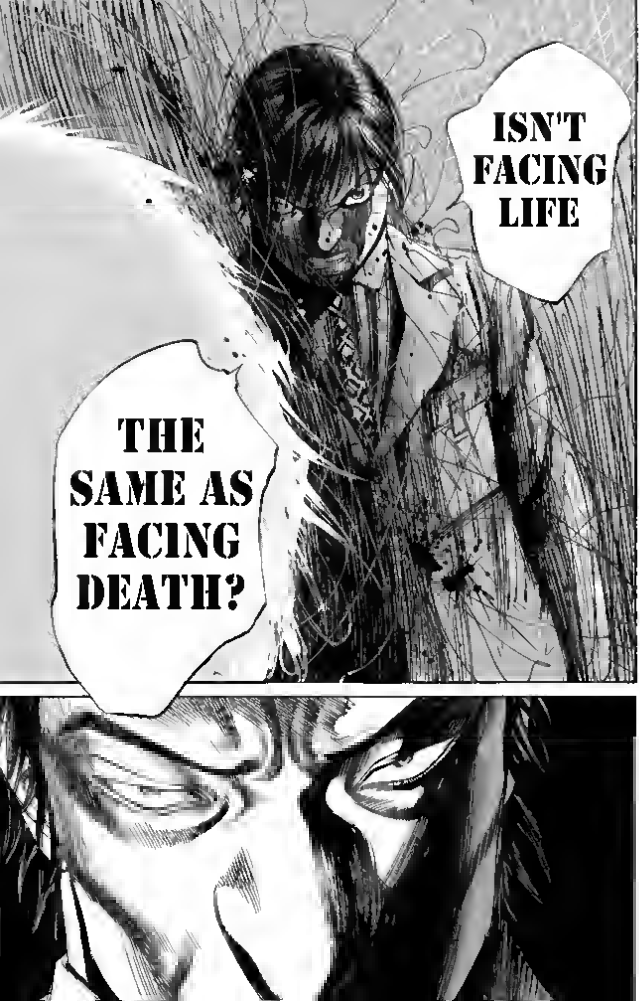
AN ATTACHMENT TO LIVING
KEEPS PEOPLE FROM ACCEPTING DEATH.
THE END COMES FOR ALL OF US SOMEDAY.

SO RATHER THAN HAP-HAZARD MEDICINE,
DON'T WE NEED TO FACE DEATH HEAD ON?
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

CAN YOU REALLY SAY THERE'S ANYONE ALIVE TODAY
WHO ACCEPTS DEATH AND GOES QUIETLY INTO THAT GOOD NIGHT?
GIVING UP ON LIVING--
CAN YOU REALLY SAY THAT'S ACCEPTING DEATH?
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE EMOTIONS THAT CONNECTED
YOU AND YOUR PATIENT.

I MEAN, YOU PROPOSED TO HER.
BUT YOU'RE NOT BEING FAIR.
YOU DIDN'T DO THAT HALF-HEARTEDLY OR ON A WHIM, RIGHT?
AND SHE DIDN'T LIE WHEN SHE SAID YES, DID SHE?

IF YOU MANAGED TO LIVE YOUR LIFE IN EARNEST,
WHY WOULD YOU HAVE ANY REGRETS WHEN YOU DIE?
IS LIVING LIFE TO THE ABSOLUTE FULLEST
REALLY THAT DIFFERENT FROM ACCEPTING DEATH?


ISN'T FACING LIFE
THE SAME AS FACING DEATH?

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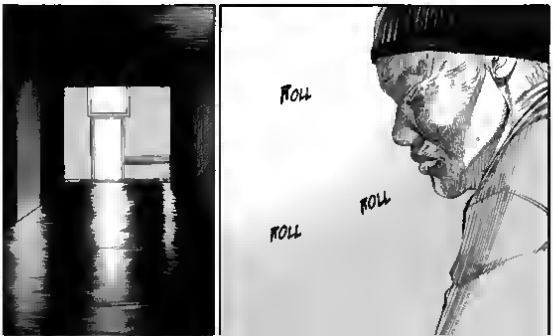

ROLL
ROLL
ROLL

Doctor
is my cancer curable?
NO, IT ISN'T.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.
THERE'S NO PLACE FOR MEDICINE WHEN AN ILLNESS CAN'T BE TREATED.
Then
what do you think I should do now?

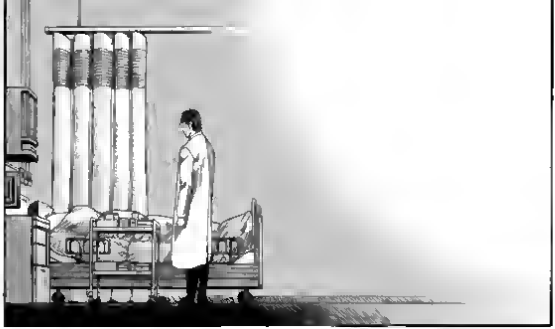
MOST LIKELY THE ANSWER
CAN ONLY COME FROM YOU.

I want you to use
that TS-1 medicine on me.
TS-1 WON'T CURE YOUR CANCER.
IT MIGHT BE UNAPPROVED, BUT IT'S STILL A CANCER DRUG.
DON'T GO EXPECTING THE MOON.

I'd still like to try it
You used that Gemzar on me, didn't you?
IT MAY NOT LENGTHEN YOUR LIFE.
AND THEN THERE ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS...
No, you did it because you thought it just might help somehow
Did you do that because you thought it'd cure my cancer?

WELL,
THAT'S A CANCER DRUG FOR YOU.

I think that's how I was trying to escape my fear
I underestimated this cancer thing
I...

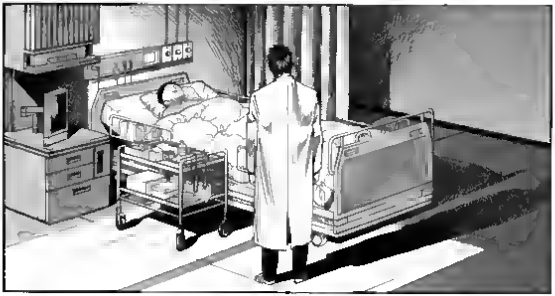


Whether or not that drug can cure my cancer,
I'd like to really think things over

I don't want to run from my cancer

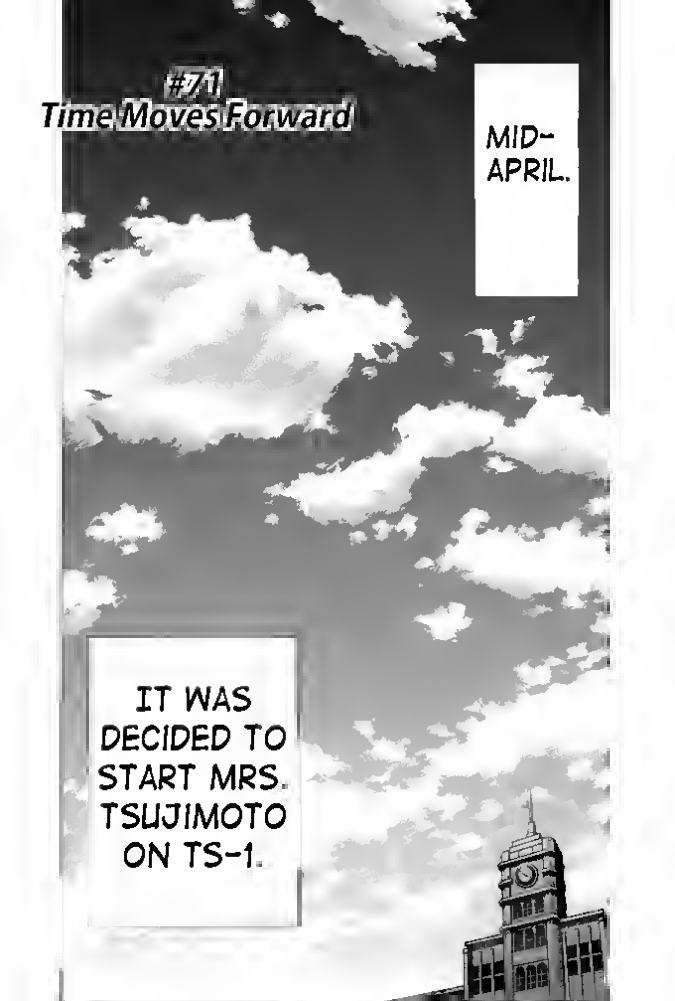
Myself
my family...
I can't really put it into words, but...

Please let me try the TS-1


CPR

Suit your self.

WAIT!
WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE?
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?
TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK
BUT....
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
THIS IS MY DECISION.


#71
Time Moves Forward
MID-APRIL.
IT WAS DECIDED TO START MRS. TSUJIMOTO ON TS-1.

PLIP
Oh, it's a pill?
ONE GOOD THING ABOUT IT. IT'S BEEN APPROVED FOR STO-MACH CANCER.
MADE IN JAPAN.

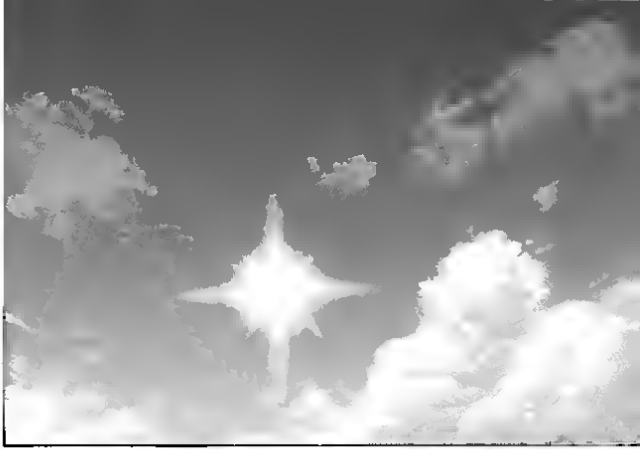
MRS. TSUJIMOTO...
FROM NOW ON, WE NEED YOU TO HAVE STOMACH CANCER.
TS-1 IS A STOMACH CANCER DRUG.
INSURANCE WON'T COVER ITS USE ON PANCREATIC CANCER.
AND IF IT'S NOT COVERED BY INSURANCE,
IT CAN COST UPWARDS OF $10 THOUSAND A MONTH.
You mean
you're going to lie on my charts?

YOU WON'T HAVE TO ANSWER FOR ANY-THING.
$10-, $20 THOU-SAND A MONTH--
CAN YOU PAY THAT MUCH?

IN MEDI-CINE, WE DOCTORS AREN'T THE STARS.

YOU ARE,
MRS. TSUJI-MOTO.
AND WE DOCTORS WON'T BE
CHANGING MEDICINE.

IF THE PATIENT WANTS CHANGE,
CHANGE WILL COME.

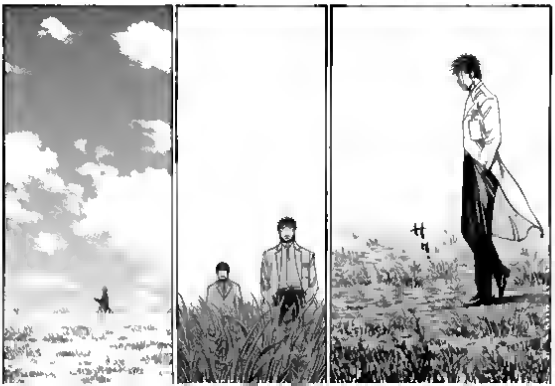


LATELY I DON'T UNDER-STAND MYSELF.

SO WHY DIDN'T I?

I COULD HAVE IGNORED YOU OR HELD YOU BACK.
IF I DIDN'T LIKE YOU,

WHY DIDN'T YOU?



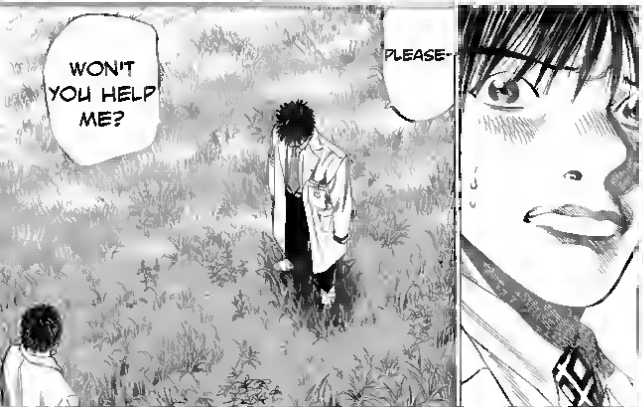
WE NEED TO TALK.
USAMI...

TODAY I MET THIS PATIENT...
SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT HER CANCER IS INCURABLE.
BUT SHE'S STILL TRYING TO LIVE HER LIFE IN EARNEST.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE LIKE THAT BEFORE.
THIS PATIENT HAS WILLINGLY
CHOSEN TO TAKE TS-1.

I'VE BEEN AVERTING MY EYES FOR SO LONG.
MAYBE ALL THAT WORK
DIDN'T TAKE THE INCURABLE PATIENTS INTO ACCOUNT.
ALL THIS TIME
I'VE BEEN WORKING HARD AT BEATING THIS DISEASE CALLED CANCER

I WANT TO CARE FOR MRS. TSUJIMOTO AT THIS HOSPITAL.

TO SEE HER THROUGH
TO THE VERY END


WON'T YOU HELP ME?
PLEASE-

SEEING A PATIENT THROUGH TO THE VERY END
AND LIVING AN EARNEST LIFE--BOTH EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

YOU WANT ME TO FORGIVE YOU? NOW?
I'VE BEEN WAITING HERE ALL THIS TIME.

Listen, honey.
go be with the kids
Uh-huh...
I'm all right for now.
HOW ARE YOU?
FEEL-ING OKAY?

Honey?
CLATTER
I wonder what the most precious thing is in my life
I've been thinking

CAN WE NOT
TELL THE KIDS?

非入口

I SEE...
SO DR. SHOJI HAS FINALLY MADE THE MOVE TO TS-1.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL-
BOTH HE AND USAMI ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE CARE OF THAT TSU-JIMOTO PA-TIENT.

#72
Nobody's Work

URRRGH

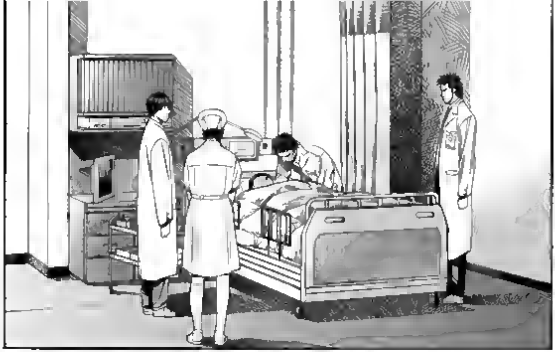
It hurts.
It hurts
WHAT'S WRONG, MRS TSUJIMOTO?
WHAT IS IT?

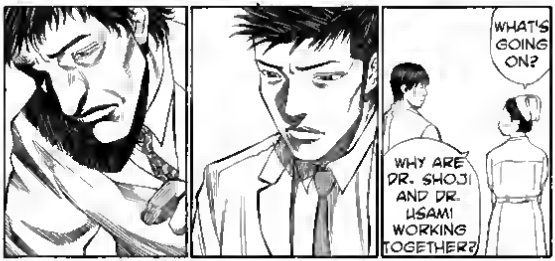
TOK
pant
pant
IT'S PROBABLY PAIN FROM THE CANCER ITSELF.
NO...
IS THIS A SIDE EFFECT OF THE TS-1?

CLICK

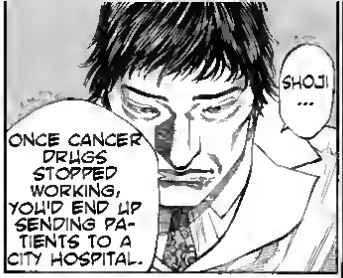
I INCREASED HER DOSE TO TWICE NORMAL, BUT SHE'S STILL COMPLAINING OF PAIN.
YES.
DID YOU UP HER MS CONTIN?

THAT'S NOT GOOD.
!!
!!
SHAKE
SHAKE
YOU HAVEN'T HAD A BOWEL MOVEMENT SINCE YOU WERE ADMITTED THIS TIME, HAVE YOU?
MRS. TSUJIMOTO,
WE'LL NEED SOME REGLAN AND SELET'S TRIPLE THE TWICE-LON.
YES, DOCTOR.
SAITO,
PREPARE 20 MG OF MORPHINE HYDROCHLORIDE.




WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHY ARE DR. SHOJI AND DR. USAMI WORKING TOGETHER?

SO FAR, NO ISSUES WITH TS-1 SIDE EFFECTS.
HER WHITE BLOOD CELL COUNT IS A LITTLE LOW, BUT WITHIN RANGE.
FATIS
HIII
HIII


SHOJI ...
ONCE CANCER DRUGS STOPPED WORKING, YOU'D END UP SENDING PATIENTS TO A CITY HOSPITAL.

DON'T THINK THAT WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE YOUR WORK AS A DOCTOR RESPECTABLE.

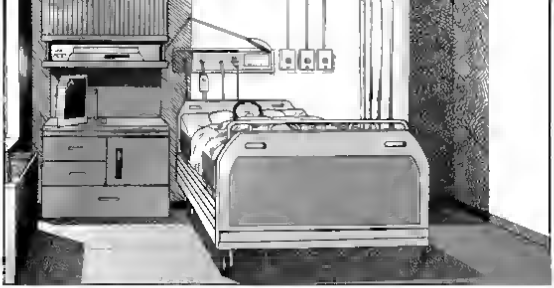
TERMINAL CARE
IS NOT AS SIMPLE AS MOST DOCTORS IN JAPAN THINK IT IS.

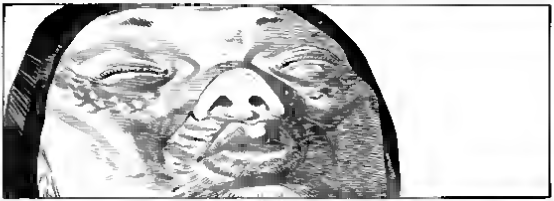
SIDE EFFECTS ARE PRACTICALLY GUARANTEED,
AND WITH IMPROPER USE, IT WON'T TOUCH THE PAIN.
FOR EXAMPLE, MORPHINE IS NOT EASY TO HANDLE.
IN FACT, ONLY A HANDFUL OF DOCTORS ARE SKILLED ENOUGH
TO USE MORPHINE WELL.
15 THOUSAND PEOPLE.

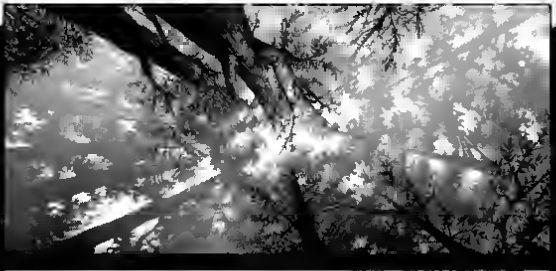
15 THOUSAND PATIENTS
ARE SUFFERING FROM TERMINAL CANCER PAIN AS WE SPEAK.

ONCE THEY'RE CONDEMNED TO DIE, TREATMENT BECOMES MEANINGLESS.

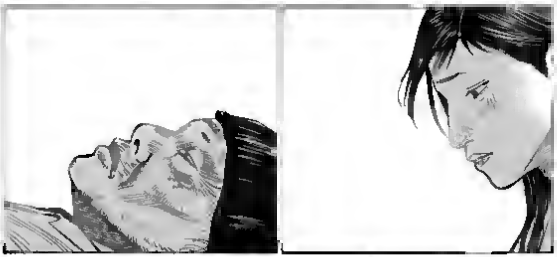
FAR TOO MANY DOCTORS THINK
THEIR JOB IS TO CURE PATIENTS.







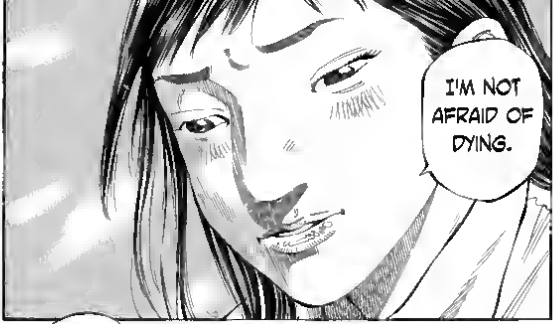
KNOCK
KNOCK
UM...
I'M MADOKA UTSUMI.
DR. USAMI
TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.



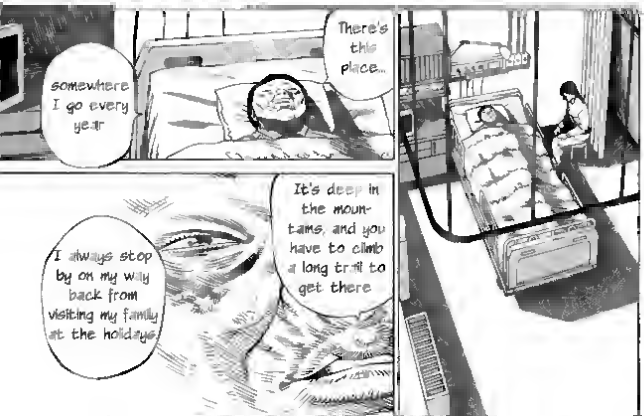
YOU'RE TAKING CANCER DRUGS AGAIN.
WOW... I THINK IT'S GREAT

I...
I LOST BOTH OF MY PARENTS TO CANCER.
CANCER IS JUST SO...
SO FATEFUL, SOMEHOW.
Did Dr. Usami ask you, too?
What death is?

I THINK ABOUT IT AT NIGHT, BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP.
DEATH IS DEATH.
I'M NOT AFRAID OF DYING.
ISN'T THE WORLD ALL IN MY IMAGINATION.
DOESN'T IT ONLY EXIST IN MY HEAD?
IF I DIE JUST LIKE THIS,
WON'T THE WHOLE WORLD DISAPPEAR WITH ME?
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING,
SO I WON'T LEAVE ANYTHING BEHIND.

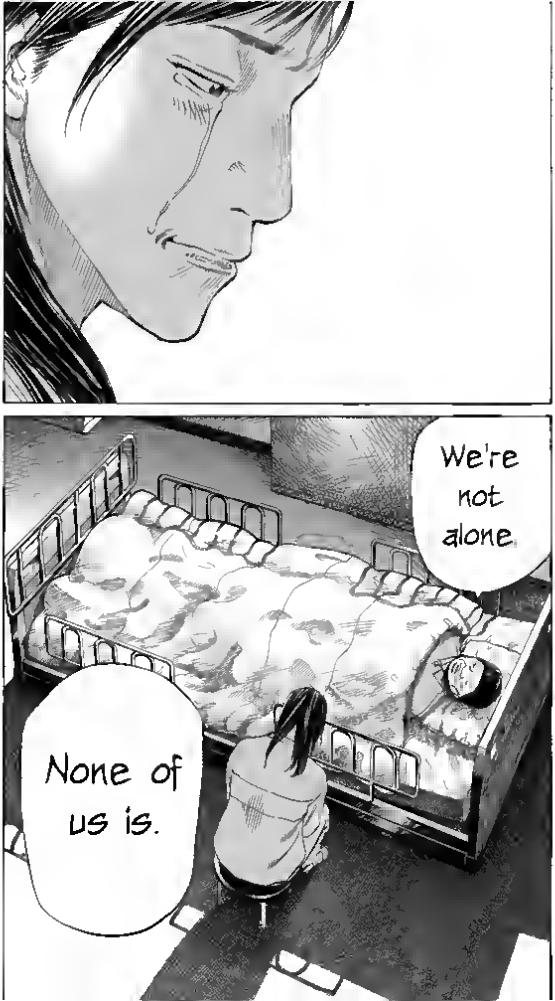

I'M NOT AFRAID OF DYING.

BUT I'M ALONE.

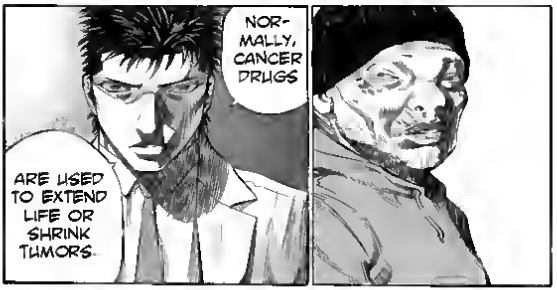

There's this place...
somewhere I go every year
It's deep in the mountains, and you have to climb a long trail to get there
I always stop by on my way back from visiting my family at the holidays

There's a huge tree there,
a tree that's been there for hundreds of years.
I don't know
what was drawing me to that tree in the mountains back then.
When I was a little girl,
my father would carry me there.
If you go away,
nothing will change

It will still go on
But does that mean
that you're all alone?
I can't really explain it,
but if life will go on, then you're definitely not alone


We're not alone.
None of us is.

MRS. TSUJIMOTO,
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH WITH YOUR CANCER DRUG?


NORMALLY, CANCER DRUGS
ARE USED TO EXTEND LIFE OR SHRINK TUMORS.

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THINKING,
THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO USE CANCER DRUGS.
BUT YOU SAID YOU WANT TO USE TS-1 SO YOU CAN FACE YOUR CANCER.

#73
What You Taught Me

WHY DID YOU SEND HER HOME?

AND WITH USAMI ON BOARD,
THERE'S EVEN HOPE FOR HANDLING HER CANCER PAIN.
HER TS-1 SIDE EFFECTS ARE UNDER CONTROL AT THE MOMENT.

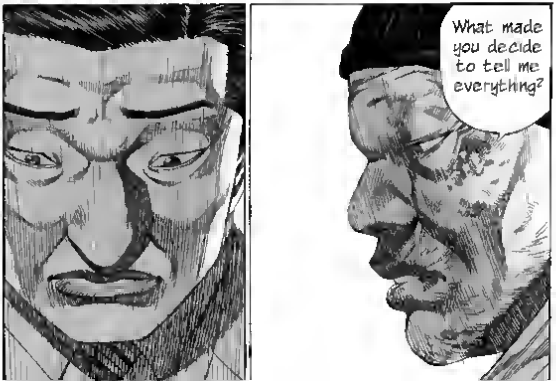
THERE'S NO REASON TO KEEP HER HERE.

MRS. TSUJIMOTO IS CURRENTLY TAKING 80 MG OF TS-1 A DAY.
WE MIGHT HAVE PREVENTED ANY SIDE EFFECTS,
BUT THAT'S LESS THAN THE STANDARD 100 MG DAILY DOSE.

SHE MAY BE SATISFIED JUST TO HAVE A PILL TO SWALLOW, BUT SHOULDN'T WE BE GIVING HER AN AMOUNT THAT'S MORE LIKELY TO BE EFFECTIVE?

EFFECTIVE HOW?

Hey, honey?


What made you decide to tell me everything?

GOOD QUES-TION...

DR. SAITO KIND OF TALKED ME INTO IT, FOR ONE
AND I GUESS I WAS AFRAID TO BEAR IT ALL ALONE

GO ON...

YOU'LL DIE SOON.

IF I TELL YOU, SOME-THING MIGHT CHANGE.
SO THERE WAS THAT HOPE, TOO.

NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES,
WE'LL EVENTU-ALLY GET OVER YOUR DEATH.
ME AND THE KIDS, WE STILL HAVE TIME.

Plip

I CAN FIND A WAY TO HANDLE MY OWN PROB-LEMS.
AND EVEN IF I CAN'T,
THAT'D BE MY PROB-LEM.

BUT YOU'RE GOING TO DIE.

IF YOU HAD ANY REGRETS ABOUT YOUR OWN DEATH,
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

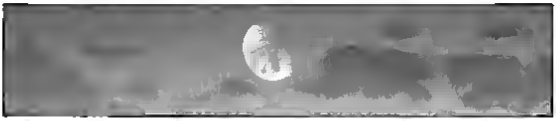
THE PEOPLE LEFT BEHIND CAN'T CHANGE
THE FEELINGS OF THE ONES WHO ARE GONE.

I...
I can find a way to handle my own death
You're wrong

But your feelings, our kids' feelings--
I can't do anything about them

Once I'm gone,
I can't do anything at all

No~
I want to do this
LET'S JUST ORDER IN.
AREN'T YOU TIRED?



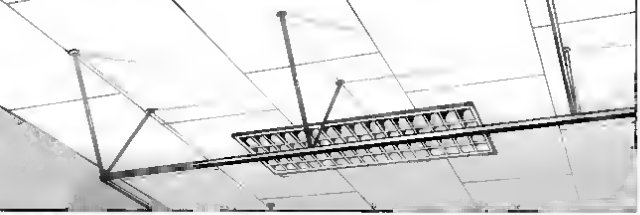
I guess you're using the morphine right.
Yes.
STRANGE
Now that you mention it, I don't feel as much pain
YOUR CONDITION HAS IMPROVED OVER THIS PAST WEEK.

AT THIS RATE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO REDUCE YOUR MORPHINE A LITTLE THIS WEEK.
THAT'S NOT IT.

Then it's just like Dr Shoji said
Oh, I see

IF YOU CAN GET THE SIDE EFFECTS UNDER CONTROL
THEY HAVE THE POWER TO EASE CANCER'S PAIN AND LISTLESS-NESS.
CANCER DRUGS AREN'T JUST FOR LENGTHEN-ING LIFE.
SO MANY DOCTORS
PUSH FOR A LONGER LIFE NO MATTER THE SIDE EFFECTS.
SO IS THAT THE ONLY RIGHT WAY TO USE THESE DRUGS?
LIKE ME.

EVEN IF THEY DON'T WIND UP EXTENDING LIFE,
ISN'T TAMING CANCER AN OUTSTANDING REASON TO USE THEM?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT AND WHAT'S WRONG,
BUT HOW TO USE THE DRUGS IS UP TO THE PATIENT.
AND THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME THAT
IS YOU.



THE PURPOSE OF MY CARE
IS TO RELIEVE CANCER PAIN.

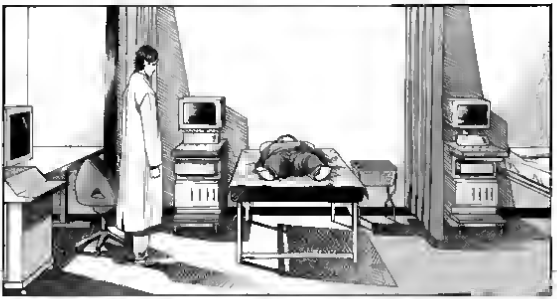
Doctor, what do you think about my taking cancer drugs?

PAIN OF THE BODY
AND PAIN OF THE MIND.

NOW, CANCER PAIN
COMES IN TWO TYPES.

IF USING TS-1
SATISFIES YOUR MIND

THEN I CAN ONLY CONDONE ITS USE.



DO YOU KNOW A PATIENT NAMED MADOKA UTSUMI.
THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU.
MRS. TSUJIMOTO?

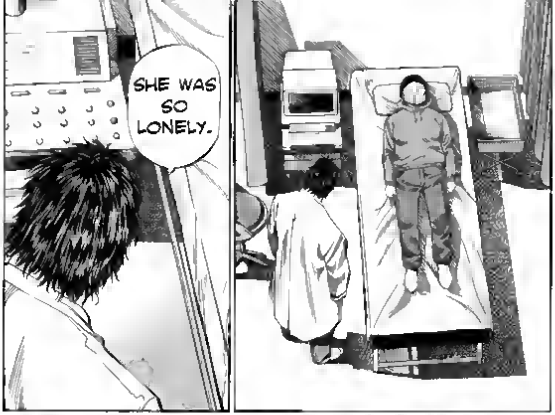
Yes
I remember her
SHE...
SHE PASSED AWAY.

IT WAS A QUIET DEATH.

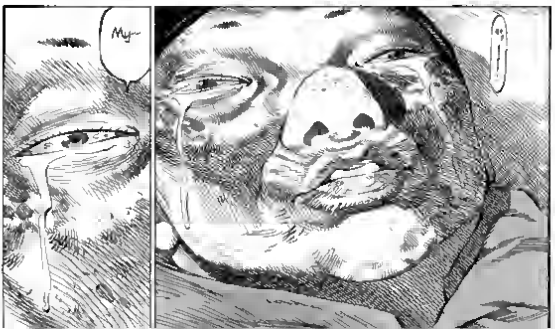
NO SIGNIFICANT PAIN OR SUFFERING.
IT WAS JUST LIKE GOING TO SLEEP.

MRS. TSUJIMOTO.
SHE WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

#74
A Normal Death


SHE WAS SO LONELY.

PERHAPS YOU WERE ABLE
TO RELIEVE HER LONELINESS A LITTLE.
NOTHING I COULD DO
COULD TAKE THAT LONELINESS FROM HER.


My—
...!

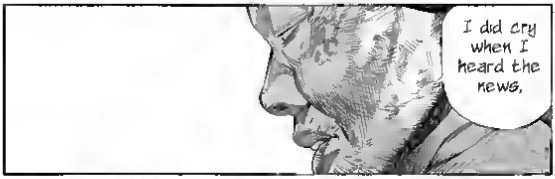
my condo-lences

Mr. Hisao Matsumura,
Please proceed to Exam Room 7.

Ms. Isako Yamanaka, Mr. Tsutomu Ujiwa, Mr. Kentaro Yokoyama,
Please proceed to the central waiting area.

I'M SORRY!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
I've realized that I'm an extremely cold person.

She said she was glad she got to talk to me
and I'm still not sad about her death.
I'm not especially sad.


I did cry when I heard the news,

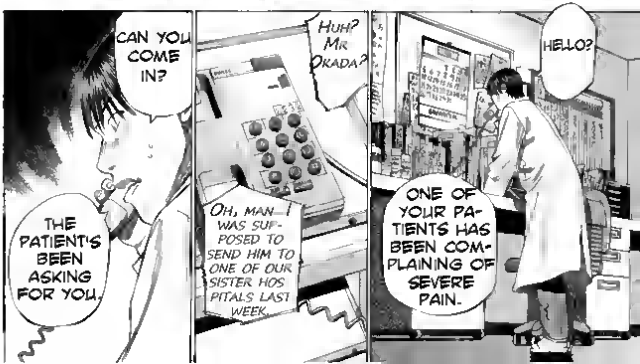
but that..
that's not because it was sad.

I was just shocked, and scared.

I don't understand anything myself,
so I just kept on talking
I told her a lot of things
What on earth did she take from it all?
Doctor.
I guess I am afraid to die after all.

SNORE
SNORE
SNORE
UH?
UH?

UGH
UGH


CAN YOU COME IN?
THE PATIENT'S BEEN ASKING FOR YOU.
HUH? MR OKADA?
OH, MAN... WAS SUPPOSED TO SEND HIM TO ONE OF OUR SISTER HOSPITALS LAST WEEK.
HELLO?
ONE OF YOUR PATIENTS HAS BEEN COMPLAINING OF SEVERE PAIN.

SEDATE HIM?
CAN'T YOU JUST SEDATE HIM FOR NOW?
HUH? NO WAY.
I MEAN, IT'S NIGHT.

YOU KNOW, GIVE HIM A BIG DOSE OF DORMICUM OR SOMETHING.
JUST--JUST REDUCE HIS LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS!

DOC-TOR,
PLEASE, PUT HIM TO SLEEP.
Oooh...
Oooh...
PLEASE.
IF YOU CAN'T HELP HIM, AT LEAST MAKE HIM COM-FORTABLE.
So this is dying of cancer.
URGH...
DOC-TOR,
SHALL I CALL DR. USAMI?
And in the end,
URRRRGH
I can't save anyone at all!

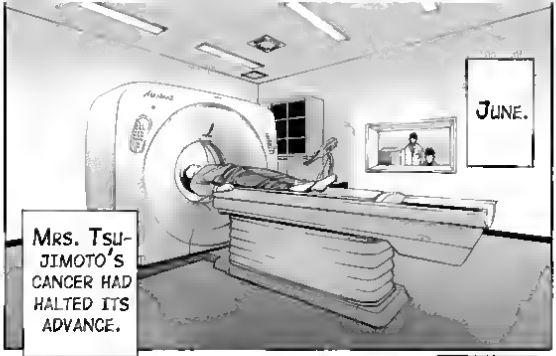
FWOOSH
drip
drip
zzz
zzz

IT'S A HOSPI-TAL--
IT'S ONLY NATURAL PEOPLE WILL DIE.

HAVE MY SENSES BEEN DULLED?

WHEN MISS UTSUMI PASSED AWAY,
I WAS WORKING, EATING, SLEEPING LIKE I ALWAYS DO.

EVEN MRS. TSUJIMOTO
WASN'T BARING HER SOUL WHEN SHE ASKED YOU TO HELP HER.
MAYBE IT'S PRESUMPTUOUS
FOR DOCTORS TO TRY TO SAVE PATIENTS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
MAYBE SHE KNEW NOTHING WOULD COME OF IT,
AND SHE TOLD YOU ANYWAY.
NOT ME, AND NOT USAMI--
YOU.

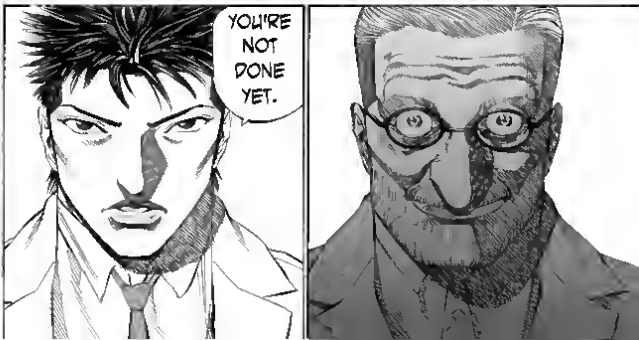

JUNE.
MRS. TSUJIMOTO'S CANCER HAD HALTED ITS ADVANCE.

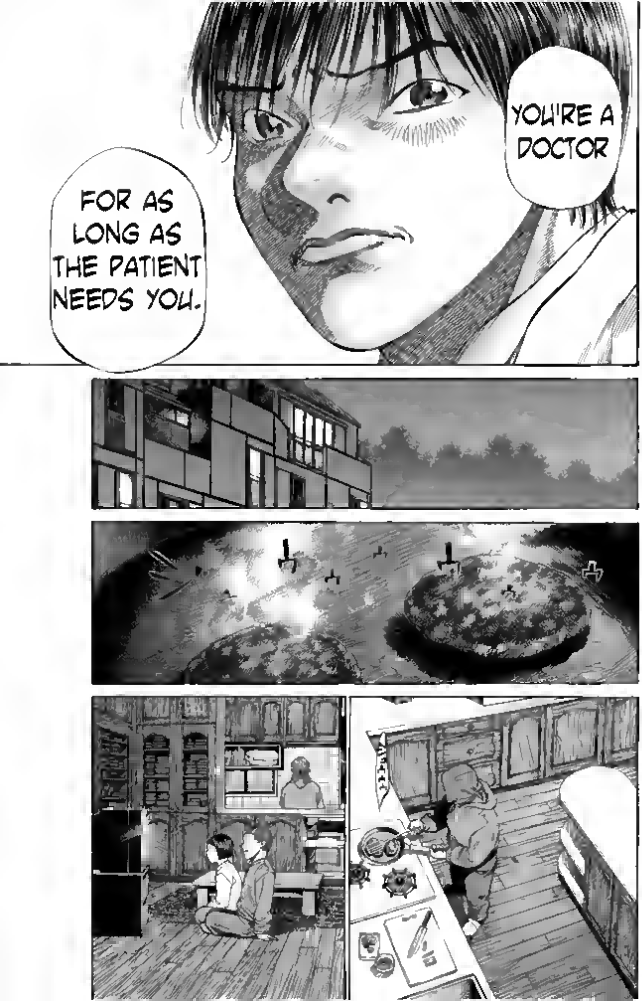
WAS IT BECAUSE OF THE TS-1?
OR WAS IT JUST THE PHASE IN WHICH PROGRESS STOPS?

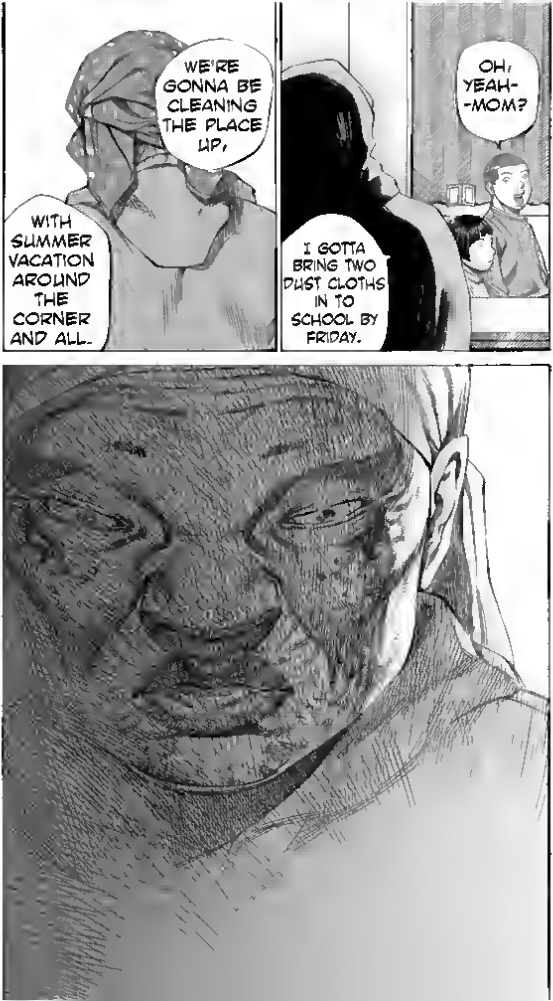
THE MONTH AND A HALF SHE HAD LEFT TO LIVE BACK IN APRIL
HAD ALREADY PASSED.

MISS MINA-KAWA?
UH— HELLO?
BEEP BEEP
I'M KIND OF BUSY TODAY.
I'M SORRY.
TOK
TOK
OFFICE
CREAK

HUH...?
I'VE PUT IN A REQUEST TO EXTEND YOUR INTERNSHIP ANOTHER TWO MONTHS.
SAITO.

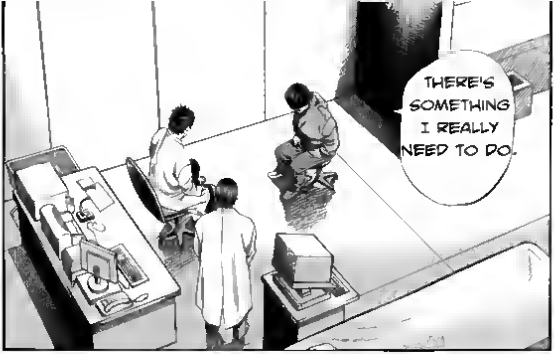

YOU'RE NOT DONE YET.


YOU'RE A DOCTOR
FOR AS LONG AS THE PATIENT NEEDS YOU.


WE'RE GONNA BE CLEANING THE PLACE UP,
WITH SUMMER VACATION AROUND THE CORNER AND ALL.
OH, YEAH--MOM?
I GOTTA BRING TWO DUST CLOTHS IN TO SCHOOL BY FRIDAY.

THERE SEEMS TO BE WATER IN YOUR LUNGS.
IT'S HYDRO-THO-RAX.
please, can I stop coming to the hospital?
Doctor.
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, YOU'RE NOT ABLE TO BREATHE DEEPLY,
WHICH IN TURN MAKES YOU LIST-LESS AND SHORT OF BREATH.

THERE'S SOMETHING
I REALLY NEED TO DO


THERE'S SOMETHING I REALLY NEED TO DO.

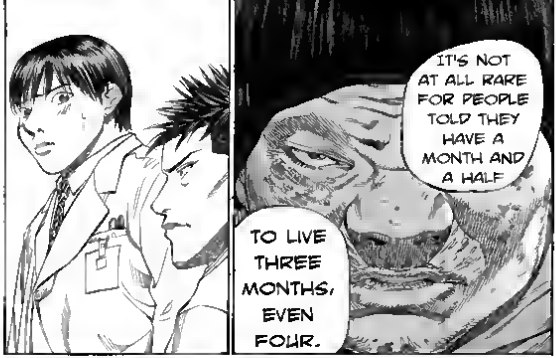
#75
Until the Day I Die
PLEASE, CAN I STOP
COMING TO THE HOSPITAL?

I DON'T UNDER-STAND,
MRS. TSUJI-MOTO --

DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR PRESENT CONDITION?

DOCTOR,

THE TS-1 HAS MADE ME FEEL BETTER,
AND I'VE EVEN BEEN ABLE TO REDUCE MY MORPHINE.
I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
THAT'S HOW I'VE BEEN ABLE TO LIVE SO FAR PAST
THE ONE MONTH YOU SAID I HAD LEFT.
IT'S ONLY A GUESS BASED ON THE AVERAGE LIFESPAN OF ALL PANCREATIC CANCER PATIENTS.
LIFE EXPECTANCY IS JUST STATISTICS.


IT'S NOT AT ALL RARE FOR PEOPLE TOLD THEY HAVE A MONTH AND A HALF
TO LIVE THREE MONTHS, EVEN FOUR.

WE CAN'T SAY FOR SURE IF YOUR LONGEVITY IS DUE TO THE TS-1
OR IF YOU WERE ALWAYS GOING TO LIVE THIS LONG.

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WOULD END UP BREAKING THE LAW
SO MY INSURANCE WOULD COVER IT.
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW EXPENSIVE THIS UNAPPROVED TS-1 WOULD BE.

AND STILL,
STILL I WANTED TO LIVE.
IF HYDRO-THORAX HAS SET IN, YOU...
YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT
WHY I WANTED TO LIVE.

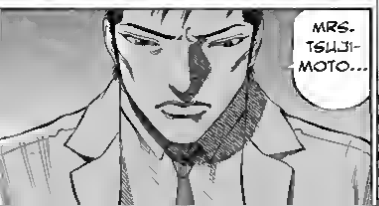
WHEN MISS UTSUMI PASSED AWAY,
DR. USAMI SAID I SAVED HER FROM HER LONELINESS.
BUT HE WAS WRONG.
SHE DID IT.
SHE SAVED HERSELF.
SHE CHOSE TO MEET ME,
AND SHE LEFT A PIECE OF HERSELF BEHIND IN ME.

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT
WHY I WANTED TO LIVE.

THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL WHAT WOULD HAPPEN
IF YOU STOP TREATMENT NOW.

MY KIDS ARE ON SUMMER BREAK.

I KNOW I'M BEING DEMANDING...
I WANT TO GO ON A TRIP.
BUT
I WANT US TO GO AS A FAMILY.


MRS. TSUJI-MOTO...

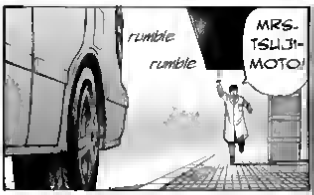
I USED TO THINK I DIDN'T WANT TO DIE OF CANCER.

I HATED THE IDEA OF LIVING IN THE MIDST OF DESPAIR,
FEARING A DEATH THAT KEPT COMING CLOSER AND CLOSER.

I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME
FOR SAYING THIS:

MRS. TSUJIMOTO,
I WANT TO LIVE LIKE YOU

AND DIE LIKE YOU, TOO.


rumble
rumble
MRS. TSUJIMOTO!

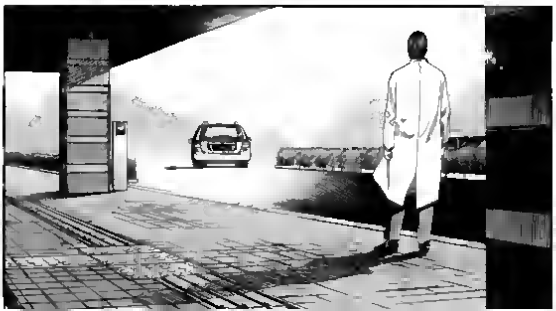
SHOW THEM THIS AND YOU'LL GET THE SAME CARE YOU DID HERE.

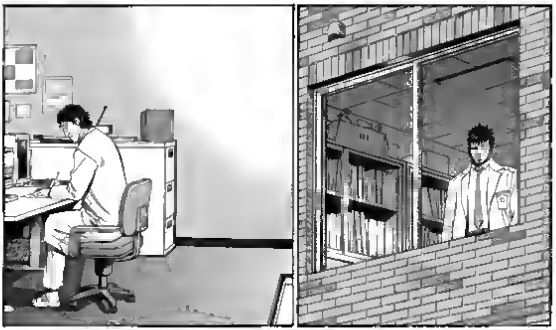
YOU HAVE TO GO TO A HOSPITAL IF YOU FEEL UNWELL.
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT BACK TO EIROKU.

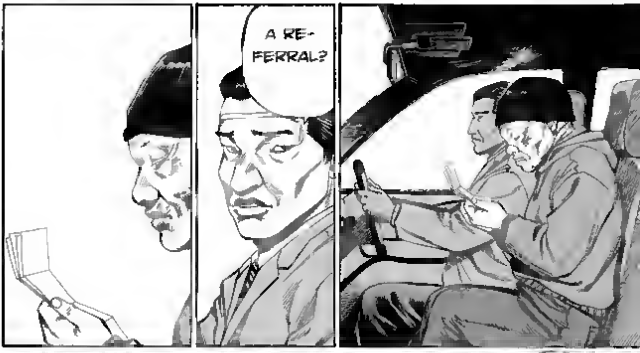
HERE'S A REFERRAL.

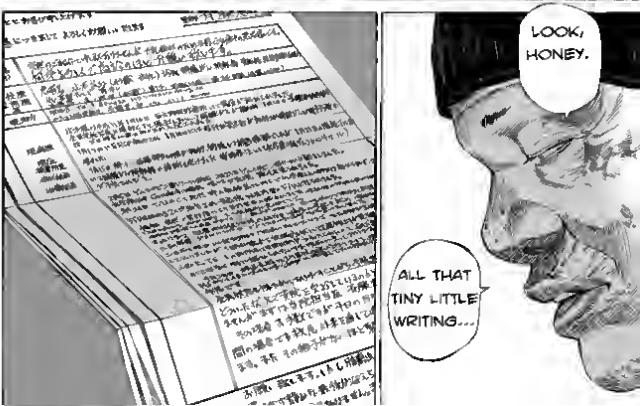
YOU CAN CONTACT ME FOR ANY REASON
IF YOU'RE EVEN A LITTLE UNEASY ABOUT ANYTHING, CALL ME.
MAKE SURE YOU GO TO A HOSPITAL IF YOU RUN OUT.
YOU HAVE A WEEK'S WORTH OF TS-1 AND MORPHINE.
OR FOR NO REASON AT ALL.
DOCTOR ...

THANK YOU.

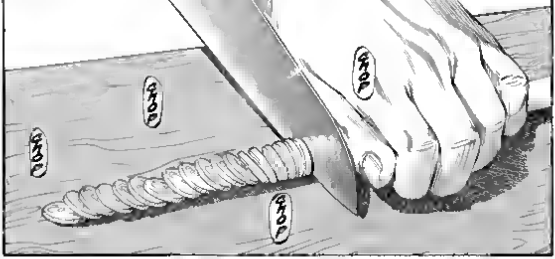


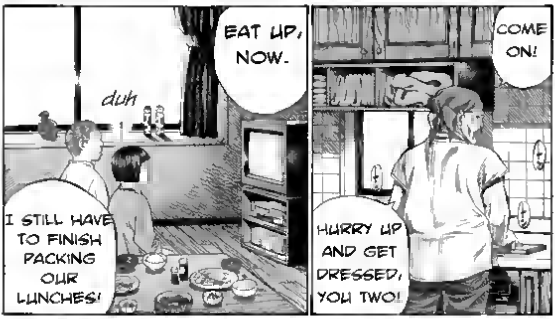


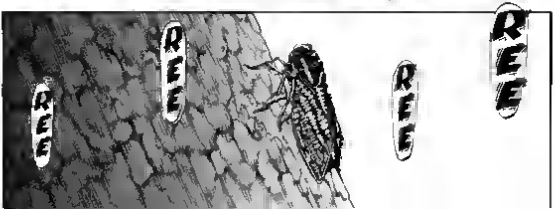

A RE-FERRAL?


LOOK, HONEY.
ALL THAT TINY LITTLE WRITING...

I THINK I MIGHT WANT DR. SAITO
WITH ME WHEN I DIE.
I...
I'M GLAD I HAD SUCH A GOOD DOCTOR.


CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP


EAT UP, NOW.
duh
I STILL HAVE TO FINISH PACKING OUR LUNCHES!
COME ON!
HURRY UP AND GET DRESSED, YOU TWO!


REE
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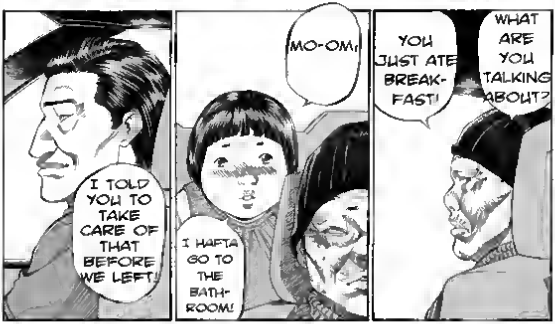
#76 Beneath the Great Tree

August 7.

MO-OM,
IS IT LUNCH-TIME YET?


I TOLD YOU TO TAKE CARE OF THAT BEFORE WE LEFT!
MO-OM,
I HAFTA GO TO THE BATH-ROOM!
YOU JUST ATE BREAK-FAST!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

AW, WHY CAN'T WE JUST KEEP GOING TO HIDE'S HOUSE?
MO-OM, I GOTTA PEE!
ALL RIGHT ---
IT'S A LITTLE OUT OF THE WAY, BUT WE CAN STOP AT THIS LOOK-OUT POINT.

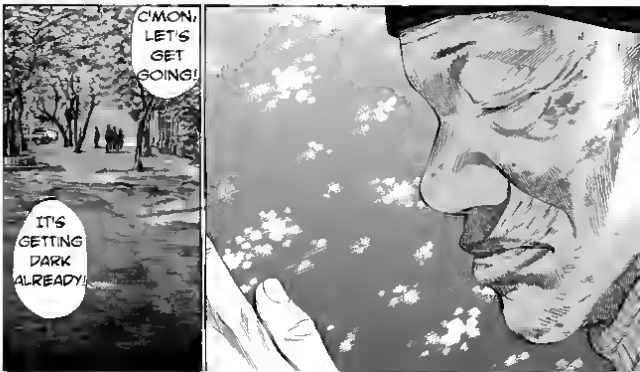
MO-OM!
THIS BATHROOM GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
UH-HUH.
NICE WEATH ER...

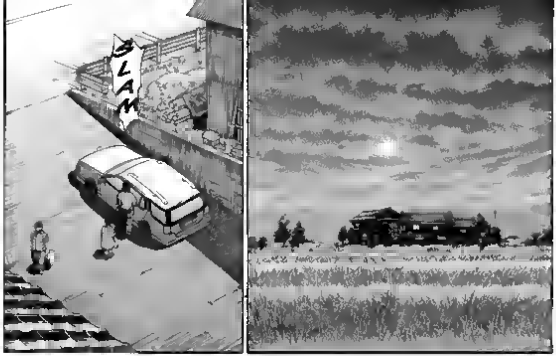
I'M RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF THE DOOR.
AN EXTRA DRINK CAME OUT! LUCKY, HUH?
HEY, DAD!
KACHUNK

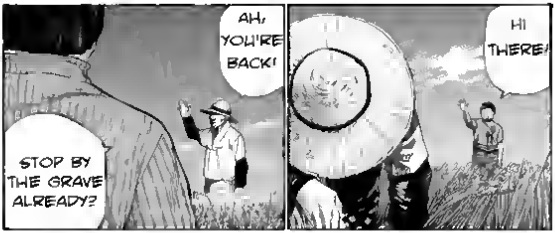
七八坂
Shichiyasaka
小戸中井
Sotonakai
鮫ケ浜
Samegahama

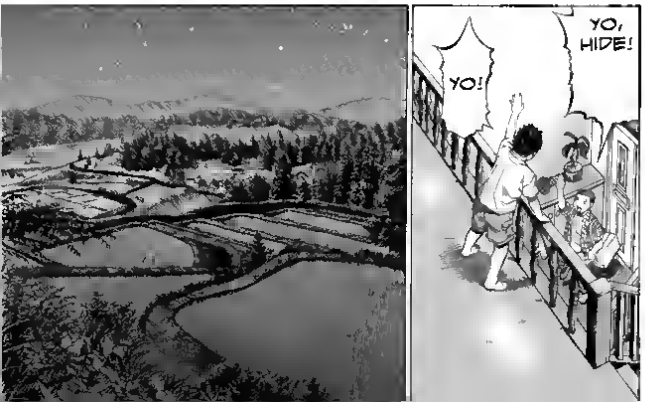
I'M BO-ORED..
ARE WE THERE YET?

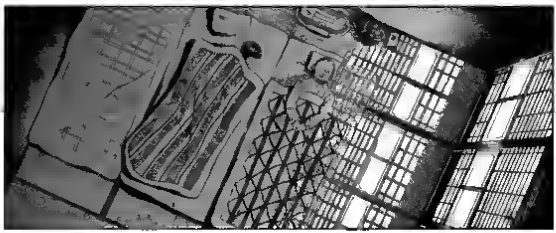
splash

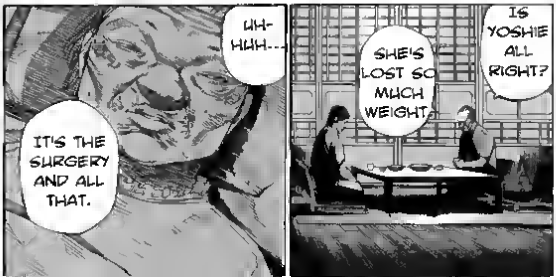

C'MON, LET'S GET GOING!
IT'S GETTING DARK ALREADY!

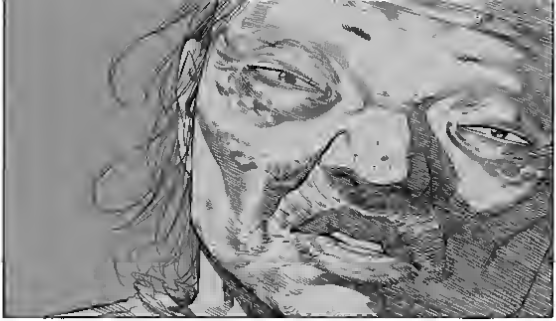

SLAM


AH, YOU'RE BACK!
STOP BY THE GRAVE ALREADY?
HI THERE!

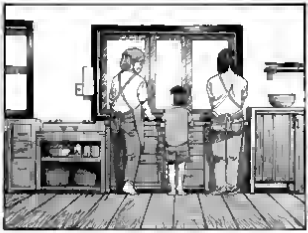

YO, HIDE!
YO!

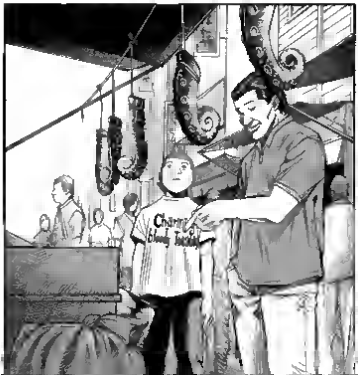



UH-HUH...
IT'S THE SURGERY AND ALL THAT.
SHE'S LOST SO MUCH WEIGHT...
IS YOSHIE ALL RIGHT?

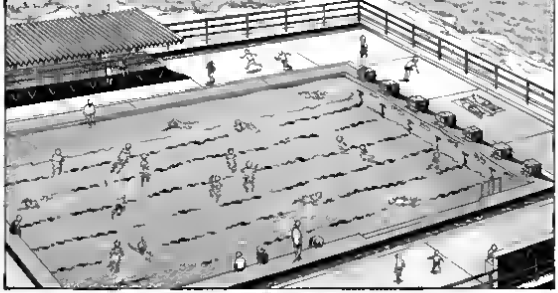


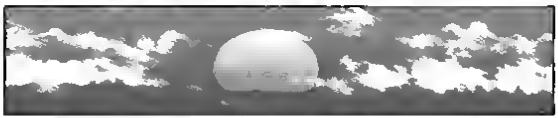
I'M TOTALLY STAYING UP ALL NIGHT!
YEAH, ME TOO!
KABOOM
KABOOM

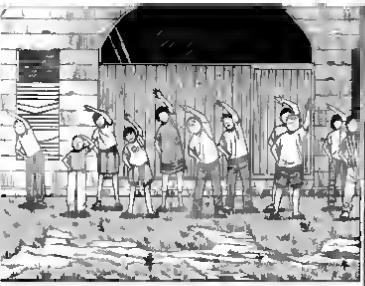




PUFF
PUFF
PUFF







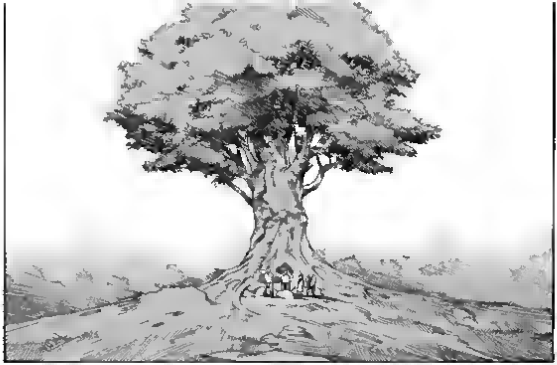
OOF
C'MON, DO WE HAVE TO?
WE CAME HERE LAST YEAR!

OOF
OOF

pant
pant
OOF

YOU OKAY?
HH-HHH

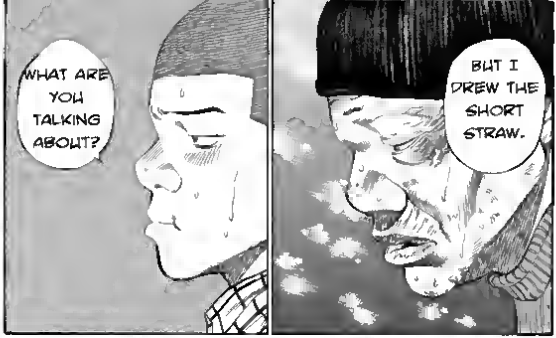
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
SHEESH ...
WHADDYA THINK'S GONNA BE UP HERE, ANYWAY?
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT



TODAY,
I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU.

YOUR MOM HAS CANCER.
HUH...?
WELL, AS IT HAP-PENS,
YOU BOTH KNOW I WAS IN HE HOSPITAL BECAUSE I WAS SICK, RIGHT?
PANCREATIC CANCER, IT'S CALLED.
AND NOT EVEN MY DOCTORS CAN CURE IT NOW.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

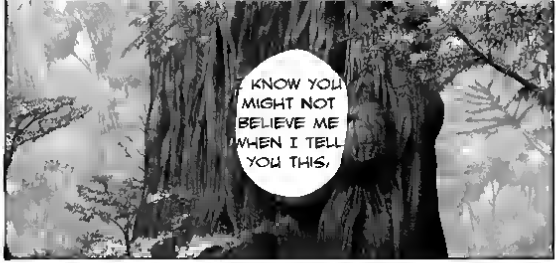
IT WAS SO FRUS-TRATING.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT CAUSED IT, AND IT'S NOT LIKE I'D DONE ANYTHING BAD OR WRONG.
WHEN I FIRST GOT SICK,
I HAD A REALLY HARD TIME COMING TO GRIPS WITH IT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SOME-TIMES YOU CAN CURE IT WITH SURGERY.
SOMETIMES MEDICINE CAN HELP YOU LIVE LONGER.
NOT EVERYONE WITH CANCER DIES, OF COURSE.


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BUT I DREW THE SHORT STRAW.

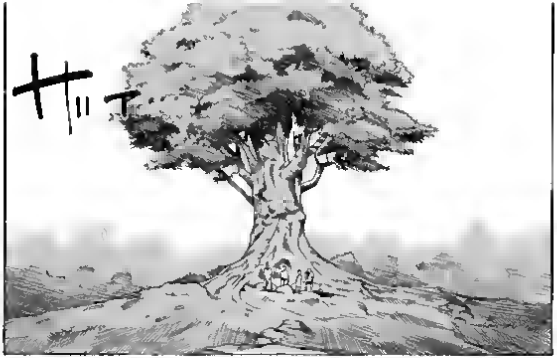
I HAVE CANCER.
I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO STAY WITH YOU UNTIL YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

I...
I'M DYING.


I KNOW YOU MIGHT NOT BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU THIS,

#77 Promise

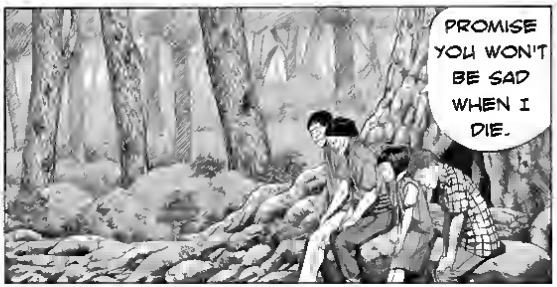


WHEN YOU WERE BORN,
I KNEW I DIDN'T WANT TO DIE UNTIL YOU WERE ALL GROWN UP.

I WOULDN'T HAVE ANY REGRETS NO MATTER WHEN MY TIME CAME.
BUT I ALSO KNEW

YOUR MOM
DOESN'T REGRET ANYTHING.
I CONSIDER MYSELF LUCKY
TO DIE AFTER A LIFE SPENT WITH YOU.
SO I'M NOT AT ALL SAD THAT I'M GOING TO DIE.

PROMISE ME.


PROMISE YOU WON'T BE SAD WHEN I DIE.

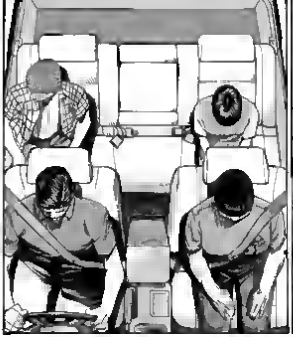
GO TO SCHOOL LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO.
DO YOUR HOMEWORK, PLAY WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

BE STRONG.

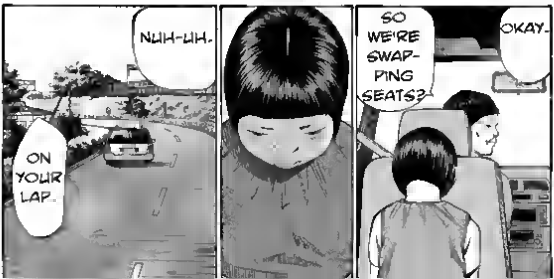
YOSHI-HIKO,
BECOME AN UP-STANDING YOUNG MAN.
HISA KO,
GROW INTO A LOVELY YOUNG WOMAN.
AND HONEY ...
I LOVE YOU.

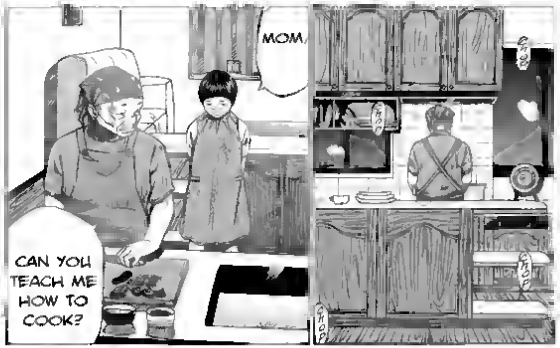
LIVE YOUR EVERYDAY LIVES

EVEN AFTER I'M GONE...

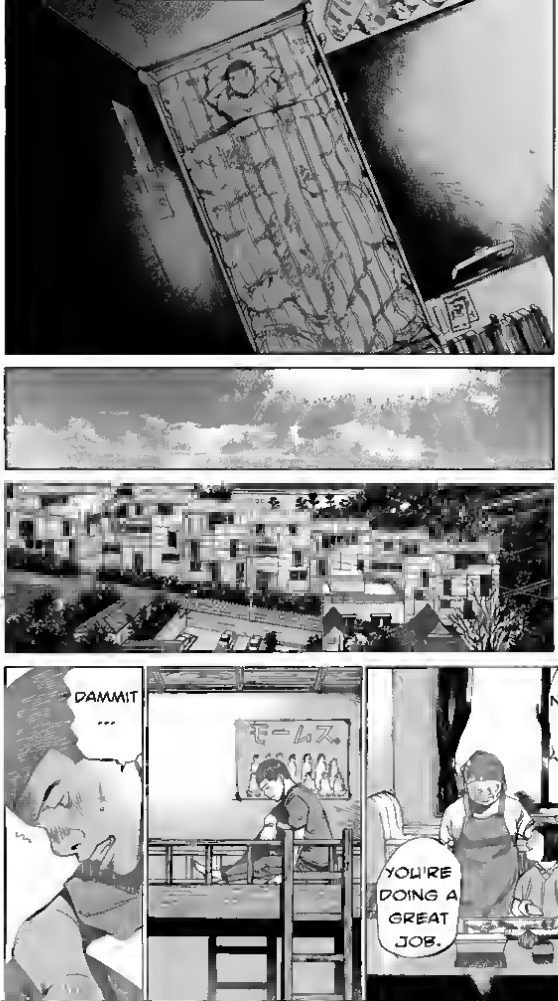


I WANNA SIT UP FRONT.
MOM.


NUH-UH.
ON YOUR LAP.
SO WE'RE SWAP-PING SEATS?
OKAY.


MOM,
CAN YOU TEACH ME HOW TO COOK?

OH, GOOD FOR YOU!
HERE, LET'S TRY THIS.


DAMMIT
...
モールス
NICE!
YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB.

HEY!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
DASH
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
DAMMIT ---
AAAARGH!

SHHHH
RIGHT THIS WAY.
THANK YOU.
CD
本
春木書
HARUKI BOOKS

NORMALLY WE'D CONTACT HIS SCHOOL AND THE POLICE.
WELL, THIS IS HIS FIRST OFFENSE.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.

春木書店

WHY WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?

'CAUSE I DON'T FEEL LIKE APOLOGIZ-ING.

SMACK

SMACK
WHAT THE HELL!?
SMACK
SMACK
APOLOGIZE.

DON'T DIE.
I'LL APOLOGIZE ALL YOU WANT.
JUST DON'T DIE.

I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY!

TOK
TOK

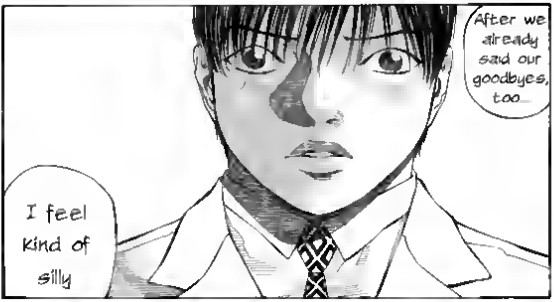
HUH?
MRS. TSUJIMOTO'S BACK.
SAITO!

TAP
TAP
TAP

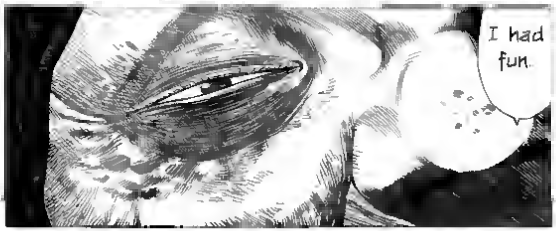
I thought I'd never get to talk with her again
thought I'd never see her again

#78 My Whole Heart

I know --I've got some nerve coming back here


After we already said our goodbyes, too...
I feel kind of silly

SHE'S GONE THROUGH ENOUGH TIME.
I DIDN'T EXPECT HER TO BE SO GAUNT.
BUT SHE HAS ALL HER FACULTIES, AND HER PAIN'S UNDER CONTROL.
SHE'S GOT A FEW MORE DAYS LEFT.

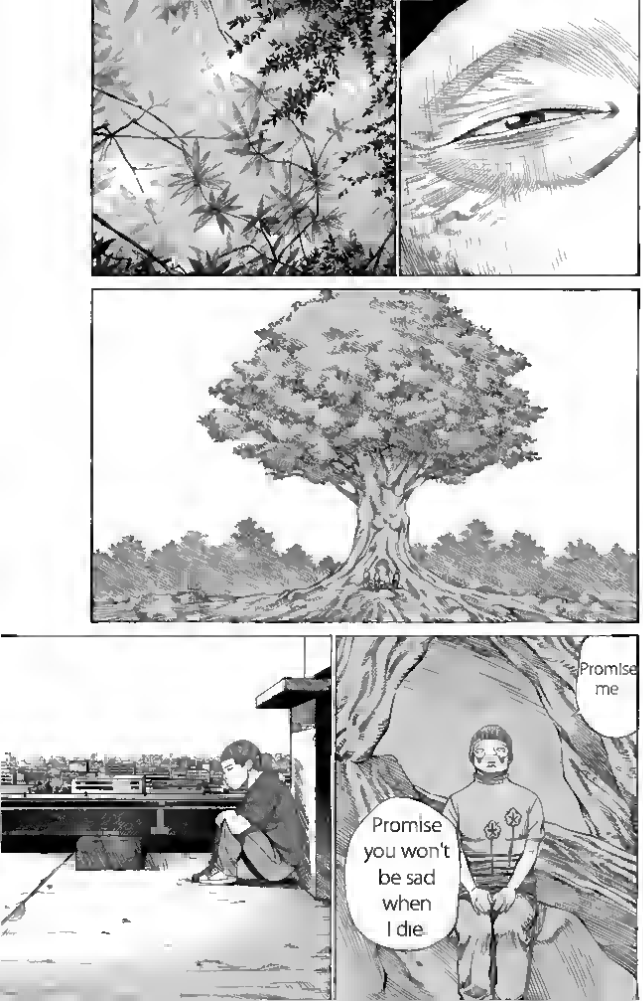

I had fun.

I had so much fun, being with you
during your summer vacation
But I hope you'll forgive me

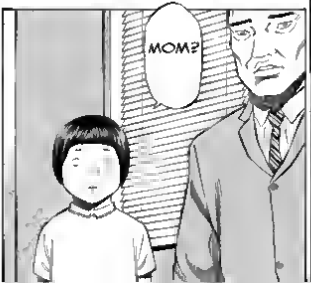
It looks like
I couldn't do anything after all

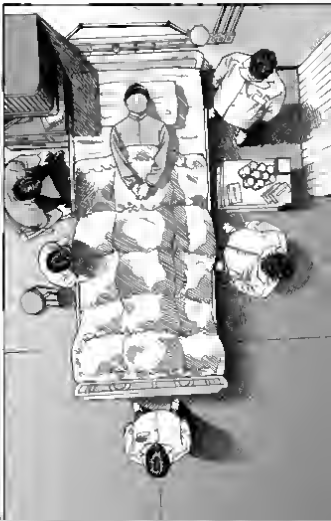
THAT DAY,
MRS. TSUJIMOTO'S MIND SLOWLY SLIPPED FURTHER AWAY.

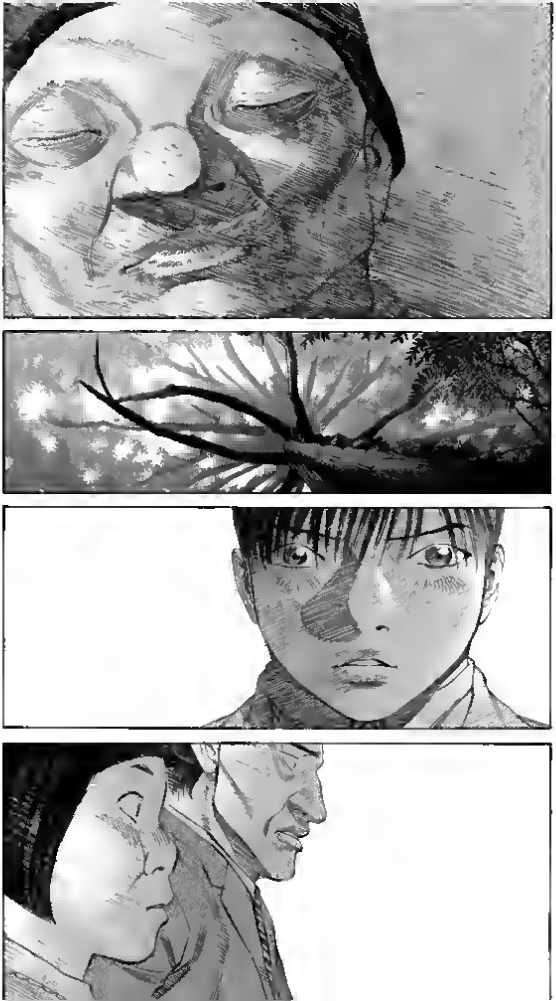
WHERE'S YOUR SON?
WE WERE SELFISH TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL.
AND NOW WE'RE BACK TO BURDEN YOU IN HER FINAL HOURS.
I'M SO SORRY.
HE COMES TO THE HOSPITAL EVERY DAY.
BUT...


Promise me
Promise you won't be sad when I die

DON'T DIE...

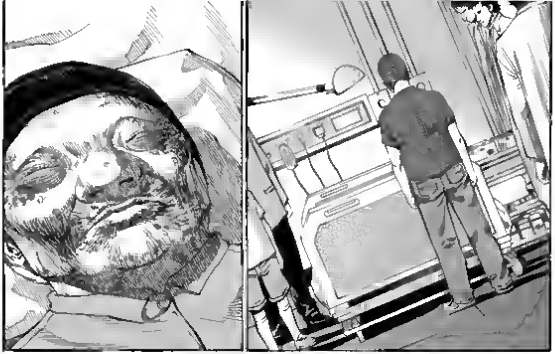

MOM?

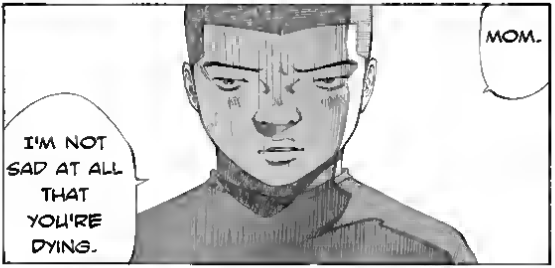




RETTALC

TOK
TOK




MOM.
I'M NOT SAD AT ALL THAT YOU'RE DYING.

I'M NOT GONNA CRY A SINGLE TEAR
JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE GOING AWAY.

I'M NOT CHANGING ONE BIT
EVEN AFTER YOU'RE GONE!

JUST LET ME SAY THIS.
SO PLEASE.
I'LL NEVER, EVER FORGET YOU, MOM.

That evening,
Mrs. Tsujimoto passed away.

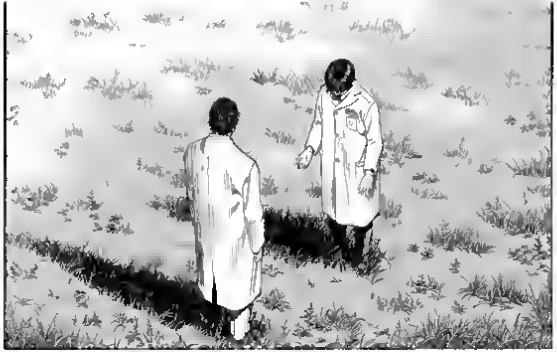
Dr. Shoji has left Eiroku.

I came in to the hospital one day
and he was gone.

Someone had leaked the fact that he'd falsified Mrs. Tsujimoto's charts
to give her an unapproved drug.
Famous Hospital Prescribes Risky Illegal Drugs!

#79 The Young Ones

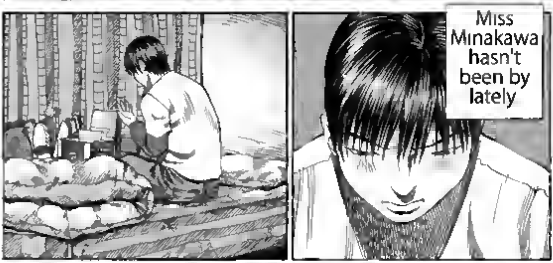
EVERY-ONE'S GONE.
YOU THINKING YOU SHOULD HAVE QUIT, TOO?
SHOW ME YOUR HANDS.
SAITO!



ARE THOSE HANDS POWER-LESS?

HE STILL MIGHT HAVE USED UNAPPROVED DRUGS AND GOTTEN CHASED OUT OF EIROKU.
AND SHOJI...
MRS. TSUJIMOTO WOULD HAVE DIED
WHETHER YOU WERE THERE OR NOT.

BUT ARE THOSE HANDS
TRULY POWER-LESS?

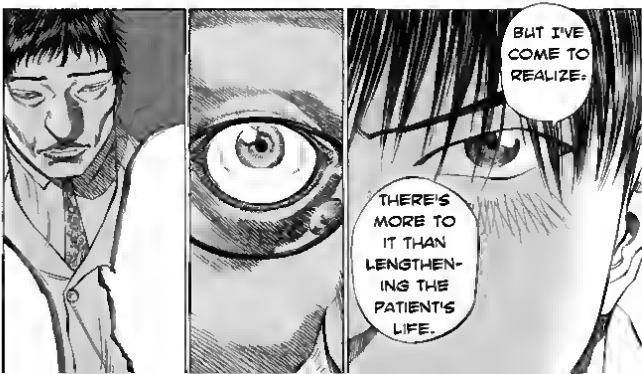

Miss Minakawa hasn't been by lately

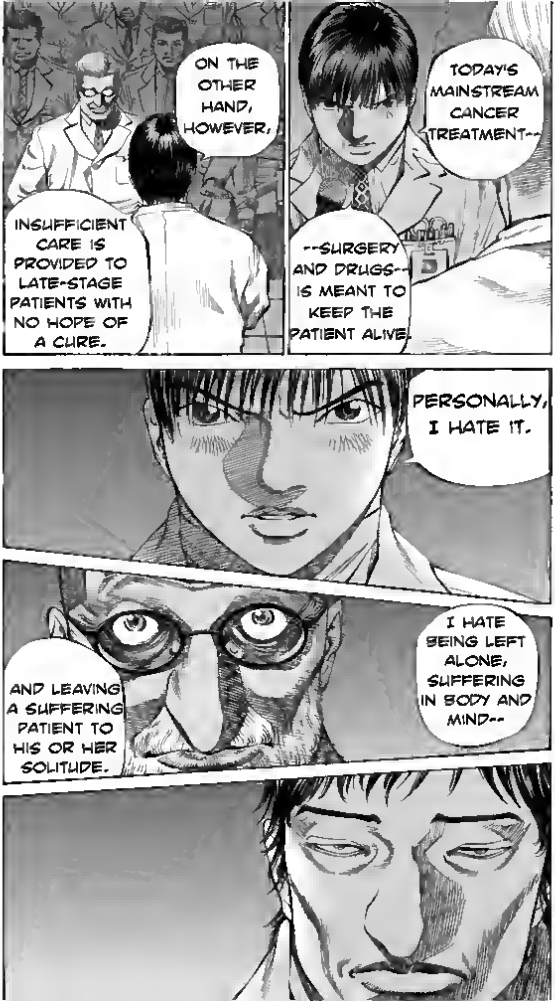
Are these hands powerless?

Are my hands powerless?

IT'S FRUS-TRATING TO KNOW
THAT JAPAN'S CANCER DRUG REGIMENS ARE BRINGING UP THE REAR.

TO REALIZE THAT PEOPLE MIGHT BE ALIVE TODAY
IF THEY HADN'T DIED FROM OUTDATED CARE.


BUT I'VE COME TO REALIZE.
THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN LENGTHEN-ING THE PATIENT'S LIFE.


ON THE OTHER HAND, HOWEVER,
INSUFFICIENT CARE IS PROVIDED TO LATE-STAGE PATIENTS WITH NO HOPE OF A CURE.
TODAY'S MAINSTREAM CANCER TREATMENT--
--SURGERY AND DRUGS-- IS MEANT TO KEEP THE PATIENT ALIVE.
PERSONALLY, I HATE IT.
I HATE BEING LEFT ALONE, SUFFERING IN BODY AND MIND--
AND LEAVING A SUFFERING PATIENT TO HIS OR HER SOLITUDE.

LET ME ESTABLISH A PALLIATIVE CARE DEPARTMENT AT EIROKU.

THE DOCTOR STAYS WITH THE INCURABLE, TERMINAL PATIENT UNTIL THE VERY END.
SOOTHING THE PAIN OF BOTH BODY AND MIND.

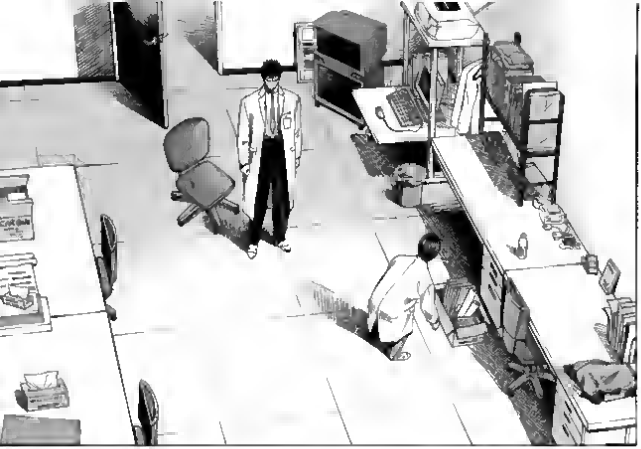
BUT THE TREAT-MENT
CAN GIVE SO MUCH STRENGTH TO THE PATIENT AND HIS OR HER FAMILY.
WITH PALLIATIVE CARE OR WITHOUT IT
THE PATIENT WILL EVENTUALLY DIE.
I DON'T PITY SOMEONE DYING OF CANCER.
IF THERE'S PROPER TERMINAL CARE AVAILABLE,
A DEATH LIKE THAT IS HARDLY A MISFORTUNE.
CANCER GIVES YOU TIME,
LETS YOU FACE DEATH AND TELL YOUR LOVED ONES GOODBYE

I WANT TO DIE OF CANCER.
IF THERE'LL BE A DOCTOR BESIDE ME UNTIL THE END,

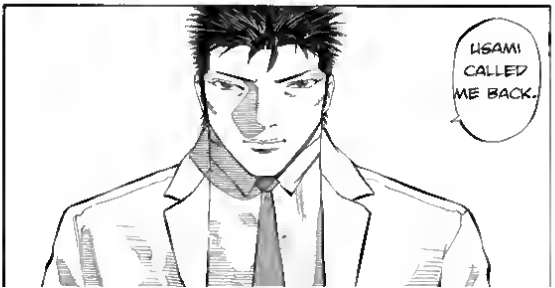
SAITO.
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE TALKING TO THE WRONG MAN.

I'M THE CHIEF OF 4TH SURGERY.
I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH NEW DEPARTMENTS.

REEE
REEE
REEE
REEEEE
EVERYTHING CAME TO AN END.
TIME FOR ME TO LEAVE THIS ROOM.
AUGUST 31.
REEE
REEE
REEE
REEE
REEEE
REEE
REEEE
REEE
:

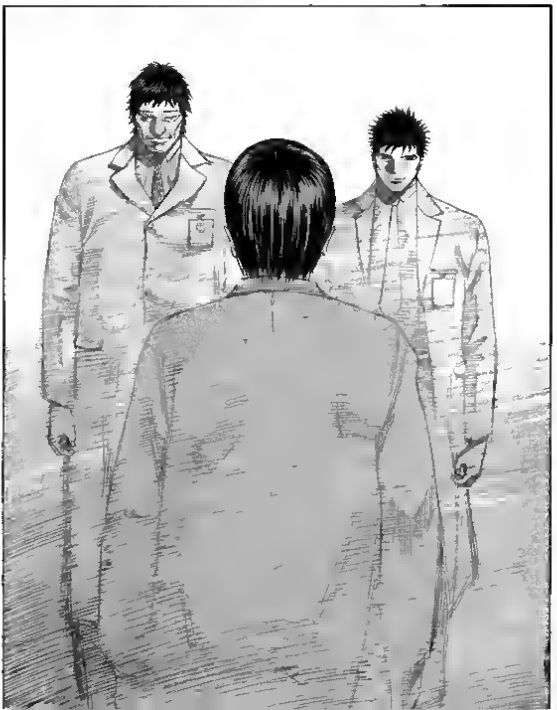


DR. SHOJI ...


USAMI CALLED ME BACK.

THE CHIEF OF SURGERY APPROACHED THE DIRECTOR.
SUGGESTED WE ESTABLISH A PALLIATIVE CARE DEPARTMENT.

USAMI AND I WERE CHOSEN TO BE START-UP MEMBERS.
WITH AN EYE ON OPENING THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE YEAR.



Big hands..
octors with big hands
will be good doctors one day
It's something I heard once.

I...
I don't hate Dr. Shoji, you know
I'm think-ing...
he made this time for us, for you and me
So don't let go

AFTER ALL,

AREN'T HANDS MADE FOR HOLDING?

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